28th January 1931]

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I ask how the Government are going to assess the loss? The Government can have no information about the toddy sales in the shops."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"We know the rentals that have been realized by the shopkeepers."

Agriculture

Experiment of growing short-term crop for the production of sugarcane seed.

* 137 Q.—Mr. A. Harischandrudu : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the progress made in the establishment of the system of growing short-term crop for the production of sugarcane seed ; and

(b) in which farm or farms this experiment has been started?

A.—(a) Instructions have been issued by the Director of Agriculture to all Deputy Directors to establish this practice wherever sugarcane is grown. At the Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle, 2·15 acres have been raised with short crop cane for seed. In the Vizagapatam district 6 acres are under short crop cane.

(b) At the Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle.

Public Works

Shifting of the Superintending Engineer's office from Bellary to Madras.

* 138 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the reasons were for shifting the Superintending Engineer's office from Bellary to Madras ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to retransfer his office to Bellary?

A.—(a) The III circle of superintendence with headquarters at Bellary was abolished in 1923 as a measure of retrenchment and the divisions of the circle were attached to the Madras Circle (headquarters—Madras).

(b) The question of reviving the circle with headquarters at Bellary has been under consideration, but it is not proposed to make the alteration during the present financial stringency.

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I ask, Sir, whether the division is not too unwieldy to be managed by an Engineer with headquarters at Madras?"

The hon. Mr P. T. Rajan :—"As stated in the answer to clause (b), the question of reviving the circle with headquarters at Bellary has been under consideration, but it is not proposed to make the alteration during the present financial stringency."